



United States Attorney's Office
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Former Background Investigator for Federal Government Pleads Guilty to Making a False Statement

Washington, D.C. - Faye M. Liner, a 54-year-old former Special Agent of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management ("OPM"), who conducted federal background investigations, has pled guilty to one count of making a false statement, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced today. Liner, of Summerville, South Carolina, entered her guilty plea yesterday in U.S. District Court before Magistrate Judge Deborah A. Robinson. Liner is scheduled to be sentenced on July 12, 2010, and could face up to 16 months in prison under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines as a result of the guilty plea.

According to a factual proffer agreed to by Liner at the plea hearing, Liner was employed as a Special Agent of OPM and assigned to Federal Investigative Services ("FIS"), where her job was to conduct federal background investigations. FIS, formerly known as the Center for Federal Investigative Services or the Federal Investigative Services Division, is responsible for conducting background investigations for numerous federal agencies and their contractors, on individuals either employed by or seeking employment with those agencies or contractors. The purpose of the background investigations is to determine an individual's suitability for positions with access to classified information that impact national security or that require a security clearance.

In conducting background investigations, FIS investigators conduct interviews of individuals who have information about the person who is the subject of the background investigation. In addition, FIS investigators seek out, obtain, and review documentary evidence, such as employment records, to verify and corroborate information provided by either the subject of the background investigation or by persons interviewed during the investigation. After conducting interviews and obtaining documentary evidence, FIS investigators prepare a Report of Investigation ("ROI"), containing the results of the interviews and document reviews, and electronically submit the ROI to OPM in Washington, D.C. OPM then provides a copy of the investigative file to the requesting agency, which can use the information to determine an individual's eligibility for employment or a security clearance.

Between February 2005 and May 2008, in more than a dozen ROI's on background investigations, Liner represented that she had interviewed a source or reviewed a record

regarding the subject of the background investigation when, in fact, she had not conducted the interview or obtained the records. For example, on March 15, 2008, in a ROI of a background investigation of J.F., Liner represented that she had interviewed B.B. about J.F. (and reported what B.B. had purportedly stated about J.F.), when, in fact, Liner had not interviewed B.B. On the same date, Liner electronically submitted her ROI to OPM on the background investigation of J.F., which contained this false representation.

Liner's false representations were material, as they influenced the government's decisions and activities with respect to the subjects of those background investigations. Liner's false representations have required FIS to reopen and rework numerous background investigations that were assigned to Liner during the time period of her falsifications, at an estimated cost of \$68,461.20 to the United States government.

In announcing the guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the hard work of Special Agent Derek M. Holt, OPM, Office of the Inspector General, and Philip Kroop, Chief, Integrity Assurance, FIS. Mr. Machen also acknowledged the efforts of Assistant U.S. Attorneys Ellen Chubin Epstein and Thomas E. Zeno, who investigated and prosecuted this matter.

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